

REMARKS

The Office action dated November 16, 2006, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in response thereto. Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore (U.S. Patent 3,527,121) in view of Haka (U.S. Patent 5,577,976). Claims 1 and 9, the independent claims in this application, have been amended. As amended, Claims 1 and 9 recite that each short pinion is located at a first radial distance from the gearset axis. Claim 9 also recites that a first long pinion engages gear teeth on a first short pinion and a second short pinion, the first short pinion is engaged with a second long pinion, and the third short pinion is engaged with a third long pinion.

The '976 patent discloses short pinions 24, 26 that mesh with each long pinion, but the meshing short pinions are located at mutually different radial distances from the axis and neither of the short pinions 24, 26 also meshes with another of the long pinions. The invention of the present invention permits each long pinion to mesh with two short pinions, which short pinions each mesh also with another of the long pinions.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, claims 1-16 appear now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank G. McKenzie  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 29,242

MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd, LLC  
One Maritime Plaza, Fifth Floor  
720 Water Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
(734) 542-0900  
(734) 542-9569 (fax)